



North Davis Preparatory Academy
WORK SESSION MINUTES
Location: 1765 W. Hill Field Rd.
March 5, 2008

Approved: April 2, 2008

In Attendance: Monte Poll, Oscar Aguayo, Mornie Sims, Shaunna Reynolds.
Others in Attendance: Debby Gomberg, Trent Brown (AW), Emily Coon (AW)

VISION:

North Davis Preparatory Academy students develop a love of learning, experience high academic achievement, and enjoy high bi-literate proficiency.

PURPOSE:

To instill in our students a love of learning through enjoyable learning experiences, a progressive educational program in core subjects and a bi-literate curriculum, all in a environment of respect, parental involvement, and a strong sense of community.

WORK SESSION MINUTES

6:10 PM - Welcome and Introductions by Monte Poll.

BUSINESS ITEMS (To be Voted Upon During Board Meeting)

- ❖ Debby Gomberg reviewed the Credit Evaluation Policy. The NDPA Jr. High program will begin issuing official high school credit to the 9th graders. All secondary schools accredited by Northwest Accreditation accept credit issued from other accredited schools. But some students attend private schools or are home-schooled, and their education programs are not accredited.
We can grant official credit for their educational experiences, but we must determine that the level of their work matches that of other 9th graders. In other words, we must ensure that the school work they've done is worthy of high school credit. Secondary schools develop procedures and criteria with which to determine if school work from a non-accredited school is equivalent to high school standards. This policy outlines our criteria and procedures for that.
- ❖ Trent Brown gave a summary on the Revenue Recognition Policy the auditors requested this year. The primary source of operating funds the School receives is derived from federal, state, and local funds. The School receives state funding based on the number of students enrolled in the School. The School also receives federal grants on a reimbursement basis; accordingly, grant revenues are recognized when qualifying expenses have been incurred and all other grant requirements have been met.
- ❖ Trent Brown also gave a summary for the Investment Policy; another policy requested by the auditors this year. Although certain market conditions may allow for short-term investment of funds in a vehicle other than the Utah Public Treasurers Investment Fund ("PTIF"), the primary purpose of this policy is for the investment of funds for periods of 24 months or longer.

- ❖ Debby summarized the Attendance Policy. The Utah Code requires that schools develop policies to address the issues of truancy and to provide for truancy interventions where necessary for school-aged minors over the age of 12. Most schools have policies that require school officials to take action after a specified number of absences. Consequences are also usually given in a “Strike 1, strike 2, and 3 strikes you’re out!” manner.
Our Community Council and Debby Gomberg believe in a different approach where student attendance is necessary to ensure the students’ learning. Some students can miss school and still perform at grade level or above while others may actually have excused absences that interfere with their learning. The objective of this policy is to intervene effectively when attendance issues have a substantial impact on student learning.
- ❖ Debby gave her review of the Electronic Devices Policy. Most secondary school students take cell phones and MP3 players to school. Typically, the schools develop policies to govern the use of such devices. Some secondary schools require that all electronic devices are turned off during the school day, some require that they not be seen during the school day, and others encourage appropriate use during the school day.
The Community Council and I feel that our school should adopt the “appropriate use” approach. Our school is working hard to develop an educational environment characterized by respect. This policy outlines the times or situations where use of use of such devices would be considered disrespectful or inappropriate.
- ❖ The Community Council is recommending a revised dress code policy to make it more appropriate for the Jr. High students. The proposed revised policy attempts to clarify and simplify the old dress code. The proposed policy will also allow for “Casual Fridays” on a regular basis.

OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS (Items For Discussion Only)

- ❖ Trent Brown gave a brief legislative update. A more detailed update will be given at the next board meeting.
- ❖ Debby Gomberg gave a thorough review for the staffing update. All of these individuals (listed below) are properly certified and are highly qualified for their positions.
 1. Edna Moss Kindergarten
 2. Brittni Brown 1st Grade
 3. Kierston Scott 5th Grade (½ time)
 4. Allison Brooks 5th Grade
 5. Kim Lovell 6th Grade
 6. Kristina Willbert 6th Grade
 7. Katie Anderson Grades 7-9 Language Arts
 8. Jennifer Doss Grade 7 Math (Nationally Certified Math Teacher!)
- ❖ Much discussion was held on implementation of the Spanish curriculum and whether or not the school should recruit teachers from Spain this year. Monte was also wondering how much Spanish are the students *really* learning? Are parents satisfied with the amount of language they are learning and demonstrating?
- ❖ The board reviewed the names of board member applicants. They would like to schedule interviews for Wednesday March 12th at 6:00 pm. The interviews will be 20-30 minutes each.

8:05 PM – ADJOURNED by Monte Poll